

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues> Vol. 15, No. 12 — December 2006

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

December

- 5-7 **Idaho Environmental Summit**, Boise, ID Info: <http://www.idahosummit.org>
- 7-8 **Northwest Environmental Conference**, Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR
Conference and Trade show (Improving the Environment) <http://www.nwec.org/>

January

- 1/30-2/2 **Tribal Transfer Station Operation Training**, Reno, NV. Info: Elizabeth Forsyth, 415-972-3380
or forsyth.elizabeth@epa.gov

February

- 5-7 **EPA Tribal 106 Guidance Training**, Seattle, WA (a draft agenda will go out in mid-December;
for more info before then, contact your tribal coordinator)
- 6-7 **DCI America Better Governance: Strengthening Your Organization from Within**, Anchorage, AK.
- 6-8 **ITEP: Advanced Air Program Management Course**, Seattle, WA

<> FUNDING <>



Brownfields Applications

A reminder about the Brownfields deadline, which is coming up fast: Proposals for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grants are **due December 8, 2006**.

For complete information, check *Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants* at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

IGAP Reminder

**Due date for
fiscal year 2007:
GAP Proposal due
December 15, 2006**

Sustainability Competition

EPA has invited applications for the 4th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity, and the Planet. The competition supports teams of college students to research, develop, and design solutions to challenges to sustainability.

About \$1,250,000 total is expected to be available for up to 60 awards. **Responses are due December 21, 2006**. For more information: Tom Barnwell at barnwell.thomas@epa.gov or http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_p3_4thannual.html

Solid Waste Grant Apps Due

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests applications for the Solid Waste Management Grant Program. The program supports projects to improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas, and to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources in rural areas.

\$3.5 million is expected to be available for up to 30 awards. **Responses are due by December 31, 2006**. For information: LaVonda Pernell at 202-720-9635 or <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm>

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A Revisited Requirement for EPA Grants

F No matter what kind of grant is involved, written approval from the EPA Award Official must be obtained **before** the purchase of any equipment costing \$5,000 or more.

U Usually equipment items are included in the original assistance application budget and approved with the initial award of the assistance agreement. Occasionally, in an unexpected situation, a grant recipient might need to request an equipment purchase after the assistance agreement has been awarded. In that case, approval is obtained through a formal grant amendment, which includes a new condition for disposition of the equipment. Grantees should not go ahead with equipment purchases until they receive this grant amendment. The costs could be disallowed.

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N If more funding is not being added to the agreement for the equipment, and the existing budget is being revised, the prior approval can be requested by letter and should include a revised SF424A showing the budget revisions.

G The letter should include:

- a list of each equipment item, cost, and justification of need;

- estimated cost of each item;
- lease versus purchase analysis;
- justification of each item (why it's needed to accomplish Workplan);
- requested disposition of the equipment, and justification explanation of budget and Workplan revisions to be able to buy the equipment.

The information may be submitted electronically. The request should be submitted to the EPA Project Officer with a copy to the Grants Specialist.

Project Officers are not authorized to give verbal or written approval for equipment to recipients. The Grants Unit will review and process the request, and the Award Official will either sign a grant amendment approving the equipment purchase or notify the recipient of a disapproval.

Equipment purchased near the end of a grant period is often a "red flag" to auditors and inspectors. Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but generally for project grants, untimely requests will not be approved. In any case, equipment should not be purchased simply to expend the grant funds.

For more information on disposition options contact your EPA tribal coordinator.

Environmental Stressors

EPA invites applications for *Issues in Tribal Environmental Research and Health Promotion: Novel Approaches for Assessing and Managing Cumulative Risks and Impacts of Global Climate Change*. Areas of interest include:

- Impacts of Global Climate change on the Cultural and Physical Health of Tribal Populations
- Tribal Cumulative Exposure and Risks from Multiple Environmental Stressors.

Three million dollars is expected to be available, and up to five awards are anticipated. **Responses are due January 23, 2007**. For more information contact Nigel Fields at fields.nigel@epa.gov or go to: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2006/2006_star_tribal.html

Tribal Grants

EPA announces the availability of about one million dollars for Tribal Lead Grants. Information about the Tribal Lead Grant Program is posted at <http://www.grants.gov> and on the EPA Lead website. **The closing date is January 12, 2007.** <http://www.epa.gov/lead/new.htm> RFP: http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/tribal_rfp_2006.pdf

Education Adventure

This program rewards environmental activities among the decision makers of the future. Young people develop environmental projects to improve their local environment. The best projects will be selected for an all expenses paid trip to Göteborg, Sweden. Applicants must be from 10 to 16 years old. **The deadline for submitting projects is January 31.** For information, contact Wayne at WTA Education Services Ltd wayne@waeducationservices.com or go to: <http://www.volvoadventure.org> .

Public Comment Period Extended on Source Permitting Rule Update

E The public comment period for two proposed New Source Review (NSR) regulations for Indian Country initially had a 90-day comment period that would have closed on November 20. That comment period closing has been extended to **January 19, 2007**.

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V The proposed rules address small sources located anywhere in Indian Country and large sources of air pollution located in non-attainment areas of Indian Country. They are designed to address significant regulatory gaps in the protection of Indian country air quality. They also aim to clarify jurisdiction where states are issuing permits in Indian country, and to provide a level playing field for economic development in Indian country.

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R Groups affected by the rules would be new or existing businesses making changes in equipment and operations that would result in

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emissions, or existing businesses making changes in equipment and operations that would result in emission increases.

There are several ways to submit comments. Any comments you submit about these proposed rules must be identified by the **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076**. You can submit comments on the Internet, using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <http://www.regulations.gov> ; by e-mail: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov ; or by mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West (Air Docket), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Mailcode: 6102T, Washington, DC 20460.

For information or with questions about the comment period, contact Jessica Montanez at 919-541-3407 or via email: montanez.jessica@epa.gov

FARR Non-Title V Permit Issues

E EPA Region 10 has developed the second Non-Title V permit through a provision available for sources in the new Federal Air Rules for Reservations. This provision in the FARR, makes it possible for sources to obtain synthetic minor limits that keep emissions below the thresholds for other permitting programs, such as Title V. This levels the playing field by providing a minor-source permitting program (similar to what is available through state permits) to sources outside of reservations in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

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S This most recent Non-Title V permit, another success of the FARR regulations, was issued to

the Pace International LLC facility located in Wapato, WA, on the Yakama Reservation. Pace, which manufactures agricultural post harvest coatings, has requested limits that will cap their potential to emit to less than 80 tons per year for criteria pollutants, less than 8 tons per year for all Hazardous Air Pollutants, and requires the use of low-sulfur fuel in their boilers.

A public comment period for the Non Title V permit was held through November 24, 2006. The permit will be finalized in December of 2006. Contact Heather Valdez at valdez.heather@epa.gov or 206-553-6220 for more info on this permit or on the Non-Title V Permitting program in general.

U.S. Recycling Up — Trash Down

Americans are recycling more and throwing away less according to a new report. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, speaking at the National Recycling coalition Conference in Atlanta, announced that the U.S. recycled 32% of its waste in 2005. Including composting, Americans recycled 79 million tons, a 2% increase from 2004 and a huge jump from 16% in 1990.

People generated nearly 246 million tons of municipal solid waste in 2005, a decrease of nearly 2 million tons from 2004. In addition to generating less waste, individuals recycled nearly 1.5 pounds per person, per day. See the report summary: <http://www.epa.gov/msw/msw99.htm>

Water Monitoring Tools

EPA has released a set of user-friendly multi-media products to help small drinking-water utilities determine federal monitoring requirements and prepare water compliance samples under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The tool kit features an interactive *Rule Wizard* website that provides a complete list of all of the federal monitoring requirements for a selected type and size of public drinking water system, such as a community water system serving 3,300 people using groundwater as a source of supply.

A companion tool, *Interactive Sampling Guide for Drinking Water Operators*, features a CD-ROM with a video and a slide presentation that illustrates proper sampling procedures, which users can download to their computers. Case studies are also presented on the CD-ROM to help public water system owners and operators work with state and local agencies when contaminants are detected.

For *The Rule Wizard*: <http://www.RuleWizard.org>
For a copy of the CD-Rom: 800-490-9198.

EPA Environmental Publications

EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) has new digital services available through on website: <http://nepis.epa.gov>

More than 13,000 environmental publications are kept in the center's archive. You can now:

- search the full text of documents online and locate specific and related publications;
- use a new bookshelf feature to recall saved links to online documents for future visits; and
- scan PDFs for downloading and printing.

Environmental publications can also be ordered from NSCEP in paper copy, DVD, CD-ROM, and video by calling 800-490-9198

National Environmental Health

The National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) mission to "advance the environmental health . . . professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment" for everyone is as relevant today as it was when first created 70 years ago. NEHA's membership includes professionals in the public and private sectors, academics, and uniformed services.

Because of its diverse membership, NEHA offers a forum for discussing issues from many viewpoints. The site has information about continuing education, credential renewals, jobs and also offers a series of Web-based courses. Articles from its *Journal of Environmental Health* may be purchased online. <http://www.neha.org>

Surf Your Watershed

EPA provides the *Surf Your Watershed* website: <http://www.epa.gov/surf>. On the site, you will find tools to help locate your watershed, a database of watershed groups across the nation, information about wetlands restoration projects, a directory of agencies, and links to additional information.

Watershed Coalition

The National Watershed Coalition is a membership organization made up of national, regional, state, and local organizations, associations, and individuals that advocate dealing with natural resource problems and issues using watersheds as the planning and implementation units. Their website provides information about watersheds, legislation affecting watersheds, and various brochures and reports. Visit: <http://www.watershedcoalition.org>

Tribal Schools Notebook

EPA Region 10 has compiled materials to assist tribal school districts and tribal schools in complying with federal laws and regulations and in maintaining school facilities that are safe and healthy for students and staff.

To access these materials: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Programs/Tribal+Schools> or call Catherine Tunis at 202-564-0476.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, provides a wealth of information for anyone involved in watershed planning and source water protection. According to their website, “communities and local governments work with NRCS state offices and local USDA Service centers to help them protect their natural resources. NRCS also provides information on climatology, water management, watershed planning, and flood control.”

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies provides useful information and guidance. NRCS also awards grants for “land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs in designated areas.”

Visit their website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Pesticide Application

EPA has issued a final rule clarifying two specific circumstances in which a Clean Water Act permit is not required before pesticides are applied. The two situations are 1) when pesticides are applied directly to water to control pests . . . and 2) when pesticides are applied to control pests that are present over or near water where a portion of the pesticide will unavoidably be deposited to the water in order to target the pests effectively

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires that pesticides be registered by EPA before they can be sold or distributed. Before they are registered, they undergo extensive study and review to ensure that, when properly used, they do not cause unreasonably adverse effects on human health and the environment. Applications of pesticides that violate the FIFRA labels are subject to enforcement.

After considering two rounds of public comments, EPA concluded that the Clean Water Act does **not** require permits in these two situations. “This clean water rule strengthens and streamlines efforts of public health officials and communities to control pests and invasive species while maintaining important environmental safeguards,” said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles.

The final rule replaces EPA’s *Interpretive Statement on the Application of Pesticides to Waters of the United States in Compliance with FIFRA (2/1/05)*. Final rule: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/agriculture> FIFRA and pesticides: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

Tribal Compliance an EPA Priority

EPA selected tribal compliance as a national enforcement and compliance priority for fiscal years 2005 through 2007. It was the first time EPA selected tribal environmental issues as a national priority. EPA is working with tribes to build capacity and increase direct implementation in Indian Country around three initial focus areas: drinking water, schools, and solid waste.

For each of these areas, EPA will work with tribes to improve compliance through integrated use of compliance assistance, monitoring and enforcement, including addressing facilities in significant non-compliance. It also emphasizes increased training opportunities for tribal inspectors and other tribal environmental professionals. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/data/planning/priorities/tribal.html>

Azinphos-methyl (AZM)

On November 16th EPA issued its final decision to phase out the 10 remaining uses of the organophosphate insecticide azinphos-methyl over the next few years. This phase-out will encourage and facilitate transition to safer alternatives and reduce the risks to farm workers, pesticide applicators, and aquatic ecosystems.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
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Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter
December 2006

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of
hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-424-8802	National (EPA)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		